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Volume 43      Berkeley, California      April, 1961      Number 4

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### FIELD ACTIVITIES -- JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Trip to Tomales Bay -- On Sunday, January 15, about 40 members met at Point Reyes Station for a drive along the east shore of Tomales Bay to Dillon's Beach. Stops en route allowed closeups of large concentrations of loon, grebe, duck, and scoter. At one stop, three species of loon and scoter were feeding close to shore. At another stop, an oldsquaw put in an appearance. Several large flocks of black brant were in flight or swimming at the mouth of Tomales Bay. At Dillon's Beach, many snowy plover were seen, as well as a group of white pelicans. A total of 72 species were observed on the trip.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Leader

In Golden Gate Park -- In spite of cold weather, 16 people came on the trip in the park, Tuesday, January 17. Major General H. L. Peckham, U.S. Army, was welcomed as a guest. There were already some spring blossoms, including Magnolia campbelli and flowering currants. Painted Lady and Monarch butterflies were out. Waxwings and robins feasted on the Cotoneaster berries. The quavering whistle of Varied Thrushes was heard and the wintering White-Throated Sparrow was seen. The sapsucker was busy on the Evodia tree. One Empidonax Flycatcher was observed carefully at close range. Normally they winter much farther south. A total of 47 species was enjoyed by the group.

BUD FRY, Co-leader

FLORENCE PLYMELL, Co-leader and Historian

Lake Merritt and Joaquin Miller Park -- Some 30 members and guests met Saturday morning, January 21, for a tour of the Waterfowl Refuge and Lakeside Park. A population of 850 Canvasback on the northeast arm was a welcome sight in view of the continental status of this species. Observers enjoyed closeups of shy diving ducks and the four common grebe species.

After a pleasant, social lunchhour at the Rotary Natural Science Center and Duck Feeding Area, the group left for Joaquin Miller Park, for an afternoon of birding. Here 23 species were added to the day's list making a total of 61 for the day. An abundance of Varied Thrushes in the upper canyons, Band-tailed Pigeons, and White-throated Swifts were noteworthy. The late-afternoon rendezvous at the Woodminster Robin Roost, where Howard Cogswell and Rich Stallcup and assistants were handling the mist-nets and nearly 30 birds were caught and banded, was enjoyed by all. The sudden appearance of a Red-tailed Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, both circling over the Robin Roost, gave the company added thrills.

PAUL F. COVEL, Co-leader

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Co-leader

## FIELD ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY

Field Trip to Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge -- The sea was too calm, the sun too warm for spectacular birding on February 5, when about 50 members and friends met at the north end of Richardson Bay Bridge. It was low tide and the shorebirds were few and far out. A hike along Strawberry Point's east shoreline revealed that man's encroachment is gradually destroying this formerly exciting viewing spot. A canal dredged for speedboats and the subsequent piling up of mud on top of the sandspit have just about eliminated the shallows. The height of the mud is such that it eliminates the view of the rafts of birds beyond. However, the group enjoyed some closeup views of Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads and both species of scaup. Two dead scaup were found and provided an excellent opportunity to observe the difference in the wing stripe of the two scaup, as well as the gloss on the heads.

At noon, the visitors were greeted at the sanctuary headquarters by Warden John O. Larson, Jr., and his charming wife. Lunch was enjoyed on the lovely terrace overlooking the bay and included delicious homemade cookies and coffee served by Mrs. Larson. The bay was almost solid with migratory waterfowl. There were an estimated 5,000 ducks and grebes. Western Grebe were exceptionally numerous and vociferous. Several of them were paired off, racing along the water in their courtship dance. On the shore was a flock of about 75 sanderlings.

Looking down from a knoll in back of the house the beach appeared to be covered with pebbles. However, through binoculars the pebbles became sanderlings. When a sharp-shinned hawk landed on a eucalyptus tree, directly below, he was observed closely through scopes.

A drive along Tiburon Peninsula to Belvedere and a hike along the beach yielded the first sight of loons. A drive over to Paradise Cay and along Paradise Drive called for a last stop overlooking the bay between Tiburon and San Quentin Point. The reward was a beautiful sight of 25 White Pelicans in formation. A total of 75 species were seen or heard on the trip.

## MEETING APRIL 1961

The 517th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum, Roosevelt Way at 10th Street, San Francisco. (Take #43 bus at 14th and Market.) Our speaker will be Miss Lee Crouch of the United States Forest Service, who will show a new picture, "Resources of Our Newest State, Alaska."

MRS. CECIL EARLE, Program Chairman

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Alameda, Miss Elizabeth J. Malone; from Berkeley, Miss Barbara R. Darnell, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Fitch, Miss Charlotte E. Mauk, Mrs. Kevin Moore; from El Cerrito, Mr. & Mrs. Clark J. Smith; from Hayward, Mrs. Henry Christensen; from Martinez, Miss Alberta Matlock; from Mill Valley, Mrs. Joel F. Gustafson; from Oakland, Miss M. Doris Mowat; from Orinda, Mr. & Mrs. Albert C. Mohr; from Piedmont, Mr. T. M. Price; from Richmond, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bogas; from San Francisco, Miss Joyce Garman, Mrs. Villa N. Jones, Miss Elsie Wayne Smith; from San Leandro, Mr. William H. De Fremery.

# THE GULL

## FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

Saturday, April 1, a "Birding by Ear" study will be made on the McDonald Trail in Grass Valley Regional Park. (See March Gull) Meet at McDonald Trail and Redwood Road, about one-fourth mile west of south entrance to Redwood Park, at 5:15 a.m. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

Sunday, April 9, to the Farallon Islands. (See March Gull) Fare \$8.50 per person. Contact Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534. Black-footed Albatross, California Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Sooty Shearwater, and Tufted Puffin are very good possibilities. Leader, Guy McCaskie, TUrner 5-9840, Auburn.

Sunday, April 16, to Bay Farm Island. Shorebirds in spring plumage should be abundant. Spring migration is usually at its height during this week. Meet at 9:00 a.m., at Santa Clara Avenue and High Street, Alameda. The Alameda South Shore Development has created some new territories to be explored before going to Mecartney Drive and the sunken ship area. High tide 12:45 p.m. Frontage Road will be visited in the p.m. for Burrowing Owl. Leader, Elsie Roemer, LA 2-0941.

Tuesday, April 18, to Lake Temescal, for a local, short, week day bird walk. Warblers, Juncos, Bush-tits, Wrens, Towhees and Sparrows will be found in the thick cover on the upper and lower trails of the west side of the lake. On the lake, a few ducks and Grebes will be found. Meet at 9:30 a.m., at Willowbrook and Lakeside Picnic Area, at the south entrance to the park. Take bus #59 to Warren Blvd. and Broadway Terrace. Leader, Mrs. H. K. Trousdale, OL 5-3177.

Saturday, April 15, another "Birding by Ear" study will be made in Redwood Canyon which, with its heavily wooded to shrub habitat, is ideal for a good variety of bird calls and songs. Sunrise will be at 5:24 a.m. Meet at the south entrance to Redwood Canyon Regional Park at 5 a.m. Leader, Marie Mans, TH 8-5186.

Saturday, April 22, to McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, southwest of Livermore. Few places so close can equal the pastoral beauty of this foothill canyon in the springtime. Orioles, Phainopepla, Western Kingbird, Yellowbilled Magpie, Lewis' Woodpecker are usually seen. Last year a Roadrunner and Green Heron were seen. Meet in Livermore, one block beyond the flagpole on Livermore Avenue, at 9:30 a.m. Allow one hour driving time from Oakland. Leader, Erlene Revel, PR 5-6498.

Saturday, April 23, the McCoy Ranch trip will be duplicated. Leader, Carlyle Sather, PLaza 6-0581.

Saturday, April 29, permission has been granted to enter a private ranch about 12 miles from Livermore on the ridge east of the Mt. Hamilton Road. The habitat here is of oak and chaparral and open meadows. Eagles, Falcons and Desert Sparrows are likely to be found. Meet in Livermore, one block beyond the flagpole on Livermore Avenue, at 9:30 a.m. Allow one hour driving time from Oakland. Leader, Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

Sunday, April 30, "Birding by Ear" Mt. Diablo. Meet at south entrance Mt. Diablo Park, at 6:30 a.m. Drive to Danville and turn east. A state ranger will open gates for early arrivals. Those wishing to hear the dawn chorus meet the previous evening, April 29, and camp at Live Oak camp site in the park. Park gates close at 8 p.m. Leader, Mrs. Eleanor A. Pugh, P.O. Box 258, Diablo, California.

Ideas for a good field trip program are needed. The committee will meet Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland and on Thursday, April 27, at 8 p.m., at 45 Clarendon Ave., San Francisco. Send or bring your suggestions.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman, 3548-65th Ave., Oak.



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ANNUAL DINNER  
MEETING, June 8,  
1961 in the Horizon  
Room, Claremont  
Hotel, Berkeley.  
Price \$4.00, Inc.  
tax and tip. Speaker:  
Dr. Joel F. Gustafson,  
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### FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE MAY & JUNE

May 6, Saturday, Bodega Bay	June 3, Saturday, Fleishhacker
May 7, Sunday, Jack London Ranch	Pool, Beach
May 16, Tuesday, Golden Gate Park,	June 10, 11, Sat., Sun., Downie-
Fuchsia Gardens	ville and Yuba Pass
May 20, 21, Sat., Sun., Yosemite	June 13, Tuesday, Mills College
National Park	June 24, Saturday, Botanical
	Gardens, Berkeley

"Birding by Ear" trips will be announced in later issues of THE GULL.

### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL.

Visit the Conservation Resource Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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